

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The Office Action indicates that claims 6-10 are pending in this application. However, claims 1-5 have not been cancelled as yet, although they are withdrawn from consideration at this time since they are directed to a non-elected invention.

Claims 6-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Riedel et al., United States Patent No. 5,748,615, in view McDonald et al., United States Patent No. 6,442,166. This rejection is traversed, and reconsideration and withdrawal of it are requested. Applicants' invention, as described by the claims, is neither anticipated nor made obvious by Riedel and McDonald, whether they are considered individually or separately.

Applicant's invention is a line switching unit in which when data is received on a particular input line or from a particular data terminal device, that data is applied to one or more of a plurality of output lines, depending upon the line delay times of the output lines. This assures that the data is timely transmitted. The data from a single source might be transmitted over a plurality of output lines.

The Office Action contends that Riedel discloses all of the limitations of the claims except for a line unit comprising means for separately controlling a clock signal for transmitting data and a clock signal for receiving data and, with respect to claim 7, a line-switching unit including a clock signal for transmitting data to a plurality of lines that is controlled to correspond to the

line speed when receiving data from the line. The Office Action contends that McDonald shows these.

Independent claim 6 includes means for storing data transmitted from a particular data terminal device to the line switching unit. Independent claim 8 includes means for storing data allocated to the plurality of output lines. Independent claim 10 includes a first line buffer for storing data allocated to first one of the plurality of output lines and a second line buffer for storing data allocated to the others of the plurality of output lines. Each of the independent claims, and so each of the dependent claims, thus include means for storing data, which might be a line buffer. The Office Action contends that this is element SP in Figure 2 of Riedel and refers to Riedel at column 7, lines 47-51. However, at column 7, line 47 through column 8, line 14 Riedel states that while memory means SP includes a memory area for each NRT (non-real time) connection, in these memory areas there are stored "waiting list identifiers," "leaky bucket parameter sets," and "system parameters CLL and LCC". Thus, Riedel's memory SP does not store data transmitted from a data terminal device to the line switching unit or data allocated to the plurality of output lines.

Additionally, the Office Action contends that Riedel's multiplexor MUX corresponds with the "means for allocating the data from the data terminal device to the plurality of lines" set forth in claim 6 (and presumably to similar means in claims 8 and 10). The Office Action refers to Riedel at column 7, lines 11-17. Riedel shows a plurality of lines going into multiplexor MUX and a single line coming out and passing through memory control MMU and central cell memory CM to output line A1. Thus, data from any of Riedel's

input lines can be applied to any of his output lines. However, unlike the present invention, in Riedel's system all data from an input line is applied to a single output line.

At column 6, lines 55-66, Riedel states that his demultiplexor and multiplexor can be used when the serving trunk arrangement A1 is composed of a bundle of parallel, individual lines and individually determined virtual connections are to be conducted thereover. One signal branch for real time connections and one signal branch for non-real connections are individually allocated for each of these individual lines. Thus, the data from each particular data source or input line is provided on a single output line.

The claims have been amended to make clear that in Applicant's invention data from a particular input line or a particular data terminal device maybe transmitted on more than one output line. Thus, independent claims 6 has been amended to point out that it is data from a particular data terminal device which is allocated to one or more of the plurality of lines in units with timing determined for each of the plurality of lines. Similarly, independent claim 8 has been amended to bring out that it is data from a particular input line that is allocated to one or more of the plurality of output lines based on the measured line delay times. Likewise, independent claim 10 has been amended to bring out that received data from a particular input line is provided to the first line buffer, which stores data allocated to a first one of the plurality of output lines, up to a time corresponding to the measured line delay of the first one of the plurality of output lines, and then is provided to the second line buffer, which stores data allocated to the others of the plurality of output lines.

Riedel thus provides the data to a single output line, which may slow the transmission of the data. In contrast, the present invention provides the data one or more of a plurality of output lines, thereby increasing the speed with which the data can be transmitted.

McDonald does not cure the shortcomings of Riedel. McDonald simply teaches clock signals that might be utilized in a system similar to Riedel's.

It is accordingly urged that the claims distinguish patentably from the combination of Riedel and McDonald and are allowable. It is further urged that in view of the above amendments and remarks the application is in condition for allowance. Such action would be appreciated.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 648.37184X00) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments